

Anthony Allison

March 9, 1955

AIRMAIL

Dr. A. C. Allison
Clinical Pathology Laboratory
University of Oxford
ENGLAND

Dear Dr. Allison:

It was quite a treat to meet you last summer. My wife and I were both extremely interested in your account of the sickle cell anemia-malaria story. I am sorry that you did not get an opportunity to visit Madison and my other colleagues.

I am writing now to ask you the favor of keeping me in touch with your work in this field by means of reprints of your publications if they are and continue to be available.

A question has also come up whether there is any information bearing upon the possible occurrence of sickle cell trait correlated with resistance to malaria in other, non-human, primates. Do you think that such an investigation would be feasible at the present time? If it were, what do you think would be the best approach? Should an expedition with the usual attendant costs be sent from abroad, or would there be any local facilities that could at least do the preliminary screening that might be necessary? I ask you this not on my own personal account but to help in the evaluation of a request for a research grant that is currently being considered by a committee of which I am a member. Your early comment on the feasibility of this kind of proposal would therefore be very greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL:mg